

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over USP 6,407,434 issued to Rostoker et al (Rostoker) in view of USP 6,166,441 issued to Geryk (Geryk). In this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 15, and added claims 16-18. Accordingly, claims 1-18 will be pending after entry of this Amendment.

I. Claims 1-7

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7 under § 103 as being unpatentable over Rostoker in view of Geryk. Amended claim 1 recites an IC layout that has a first set of vias that are in shape of a non-quadrilateral polygon. The IC layout also has a first set of interconnect lines that have ends that terminate on at least several of the first set of vias, and several of the interconnect line ends are in shape of half of the non-quadrilateral polygon.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Rostoker, nor its piecemeal combination with Geryk, discloses, teaches, or even suggests the IC layout recited in claim 1. Specifically, neither of these references nor their piecemeal combination discloses, teaches, or even suggests an IC layout that has (1) a first set of vias that are in shape of a non-quadrilateral polygon, and (2) a first set of interconnect lines that have ends that terminate on at least several of the first set of vias, where several of the interconnect line ends are in shape of half of the non-quadrilateral polygon. Claims 2-7 are dependent on claim 1, and hence are patentable over the cited for the same reasons as recited above for claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-7.

II. Claims 8-18

The Examiner rejected claims 8-15 under § 103 as being unpatentable over Rostoker in view of Geryk. Amended claim 8 recites an IC layout that has a first set of vias. Each via in the

first set traverses at least two layers and has one contact on each of the layers, where at least one of the contacts is in shape of a non-quadrilateral polygon. The recited IC layout also has a first set of interconnect lines that have ends that terminate on the non-quadrilateral contacts of at least several of the first set of vias, where several of the interconnect line ends are in shape of half of the non-quadrilateral polygon.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Rostoker, nor its piecemeal combination with Geryk, discloses, teaches, or even suggests the IC layout recited in claim 8. Specifically, neither of these references nor their piecemeal combination discloses, teaches, or even suggests an IC layout that has (1) a first set of vias with each via in the first set traversing at least two layers and having one contact on each of the layers, where at least one of the contacts is in shape of a non-quadrilateral polygon; and (2) a first set of interconnect lines that have ends that terminate on the non-quadrilateral contacts of at least several of the first set of vias, where several of the interconnect line ends are in shape of half of the non-quadrilateral polygon. Original claims 9-15 and new claims 16-18 are dependent on amended claim 15. Hence, claims 9-18 are patentable over the cited for the same reasons as recited above for claim 8. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection of claims 8-15.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all pending claims, namely claims 1-18, are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and objections is requested. Allowance is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

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Respectfully submitted,

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